illustrious predecessors—mighty souls that'have so richly dowered India with truth and goodness by their holy careers —were mostly sages, a few philanthropists, some patriots.

But Rammohan Roy was the first greatest nation-builder that India has produced. In his career is illustrated the harmonius play of that cycle of forces which by their conjoint operation evolve and shape out a modern nation. Verily, he is the Father of Modern India ; he is the Rishi of the modern age. Pie can rightly claim his descent from the ancient Rishis and his thcistic dispensation can claim for itself a source as far-reaching as the Rig-Veda. In Dr. Rabindranath Tagore's judgment, the most momentous fact of modern days is this, that the West has met the East. Rammohan Roy inaugurated this *rapprochement.* In himself th-p Rajah vindicated the greatness of the East to the West. He was not only (to use Prof. Sir M. William's language) *it* the first earnest-minded investigator of the Science of comparative religion that the world has produced ", but also (as Prof. Max. Muller put it), "the first to complete a connected life-current between the East and the West—the inspired

Engineer in the world of faith that cut the channel of com-
munication, the spiritual Suez, between sea and sea land-locked
in the rigid sectarianism of exclusive revelation, and set their
separate surges of national life into one mighty world current
of universal humanity." In the words of one of his devoted
followers, Brahmarishi Venkataratnam,
{t Rammohan Roy was the descendant of the Rishis, the disciple of Jesus, the ardent worshipper of the {t One only without a second", the first arch—the earliest Colossus that spanned the East and the West, the passionate devotee of freedom, the sorrowing friend of the bereaved, the dauntless champion of the oppressed, the merry companion of children, the safe councillor of statesmen, the profo-type of the coming race where man's soul shall be the mirrored miniature of the world ".